

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,832 ("Lahtinen"). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant relies on M.P.E.P. § 2131, entitled "Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (e)" which states, "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Applicant respectfully submits that Lahtinen does not describe each and every element of independent claim 1.

The claimed invention is directed to a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor Location Register, the mobile subscriber roaming number is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules. Claim 1 recites: "[a] method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor Location Register, the mobile subscriber roaming number is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules, characterized in that: said mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number, and said Visitor Location Register module number is utilized to directly determine the correspondence relationship between said assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and the Visitor Location Register module in said Visitor Location Register that manages said mobile subscriber roaming number." Accordingly, in claim 1, a Mobile Subscriber Roaming Number ("MSRN") comprises a Visitor Location Register ("VLR") module number. For example, in one embodiment of the claimed invention, the structure of the MSRN number is:

***Country Code ("CC") + MSC number + VLR module number + MRSN
information table record number***

Thus, in a system where the MSRN is managed by a plurality of VLR modules, a specific VLR module can be located according to the MSRN. Accordingly, when a Mobile Switching Center (“MSC”) receives a MSRN as claimed in claim 1, the relationship between an assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and a VLR module in the VLR that manages the mobile subscriber roaming number can be determined.

In contrast, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number wherein the mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number as claimed in claim 1. Further, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest the concept of a VLR module. Instead, FIG. 4 and Col. 5, lines 51-56 of Lahtinen disclose that the structure of the MSRN is : CC+NDC+SN wherein the NDC is the “national routing address VLRN of the VLR and the MSC.” Please note that the national routing address VRLN of the VLR is not the same as the claimed “Visitor Location Register module number.” The VLRN relates to an entire network concept. For example, the 3rd Generation Partnership Project protocol states “MSCs, GSNs and location registers are identified by international PSTN/ISDN numbers and/or Signalling Point Codes (“entity number”, i.e., “HLR number”, “VLR number”, “MSC number”, “SGSN number” and “GGSN number”) in each PLMN.” *See 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Core Network and Terminals; Numbering, addressing and identification, 3GPP TS 23.003 v7.1.0 (206-09).* Thus, the VLR Number is directed toward the concept of a network element layer of the VLR, and not an individual VLR module within the VLR layer.

Further, the 3rd Generation Partnership Project protocol defines a MSRN as follows: “[t]he Mobile Station Roaming Number (MSRN) is used to route calls directed to an MS. On request from the Gateway MSC via the HLR it is temporarily allocated to an MS by the VLR with which the MS is registered; it addresses the Visited MSC collocated with the assigning VLR. More than one MSRN may be assigned simultaneously to an MS.” *See Id.* From this definition it is clear that conventional systems are capable of using the MSRN to perform routing only to the VLR network elements layer, but not to individual VLR modules within the VLR network. Accordingly, the present invention provides for internal routing within the VLR network to individual VLR modules by having a mobile subscriber roaming number comprising “a Visitor Location Register module number” as claimed in claim 1.

Accordingly, when the VLR is implemented by distributed multiple processing mechanisms i.e., VLR modules, the VLR modules can be located quickly upon receipt by the VLR of a message.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 and that the rejection be withdrawn. In addition, claims 2 and 5-10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lahtinen in view of Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA").

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to further patentable limitations recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 3 and 4 and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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